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Editorial Annual Address.

ANOTHER YEAR is now approaching its termination, and we sit down, as our custom is at this period, to remind our readers of some of its leading events.

When penning our last annual address we referred to the Italian War, and said, "The result, we may now hope, will be the opening of Italy to the Word of God, and the more speedy downfal of temporal and spiritual tyranny."

At the time we indulged that hope Italy was but partially delivered from its oppressors. The King of Naples yet held fast by the tyrannical principles of his race. Like our Stuarts, the Bourbons could not discern the signs of the times—they were first demented, and then doomed. For history will now have to record that one bold man, with a few hundreds of sturdy followers, in a few months drove this sovereign of nine millions of people from his palace and his throne; and then, having done this, the noble man retired to his island home of ten acres! The name of GARRIBALDI will now stand second to none on the roll of history for courage, patriotism, humanity, and disinterestedness.

The Pope of Rome, too, seeking to regain, by the aid of foreign mercenaries, that portion of his states which he had lost, has lost nearly all the rest; Rome only, with the cities and region around it, being now all that is left to him of the papal patrimony; and these would not be his tomorrow were the French army withdrawn. And thus the Kingdom of Naples, and the Papal States, have this year been added to the territories of the King of Sardinia, who, it is expected, will soon be proclaimed KING OF ITALY.

Venetia, with her splendid city, Venice, yet remains in the iron grasp of Austria. But another year may witness a dreadful struggle for liberty there, except Austria should wisely consent to part with it for a large pecuniary consideration; and she needs it, for she is nearly bankrupt.

We might refer to other important events which have occurred during the year, but we have recorded them as they transpired month by month. We have referred to the progress of Freedom in Italy chiefly because it has been, for ages, the high seat and metropolis of popery.

During the year the Emperor of France has maintained a mysterious silence, and has done little to interrupt the progress of liberty in Italy, and hence the exasperation of his own popish priests and bishops, who strongly denounce policy. But they must beware. Napoleon III. may, if he will, tread in the steps of our Henry VIII., and proclaim himself pope in his own dominions!

And thus, year by year, is the great cause of human freedom from temporal and spiritual tyranny approximating its glorious consummation. That this will be the ultimate result we may confidently hope, providing means be forthwith taken by the protestants of Europe to furnish the Italian people with the Word of God—the only sure foundation and safeguard of human liberty, as well as the only true guide to salvation and eternal life.

Coming home to our denomination and ourselves, we may just mention that another popular minister, MR. H. GRATTAN GUINNESS has been brought, after long and anxious inquiry, to adopt our views of believers' baptism.

This is our THIRTY-FOURTH VOLUME. As we write the words, memory brings in recollection the labours of the past. Gratitude to God, however, for his mercy and goodness in permitting us to work so many years in this and other services for his glory, we wish to cherish above every other recollection or emotion. Not from any feeling of vain boasting, but with humble thankfulness, to the praise of his gracious kindness, we would record the fact, that during all these years he has given us health and strength, to bring out in due course, month by month, not only this but several other periodicals and works, adapted more especially to the instruction of the young, unassisted all the time by any other person in our regular Editorial labours. But not unto us; unto thy name, O Lord, be the glory!

And now, thanks be to God, we feel as fresh and vigorous for the discharge of our arduous labours as we ever did. We might here make selections from letters which have reached us unsolicited, expressive of continued approbation of this periodical. But we forbear.

In conclusion, we may be permitted, we hope, to remind our constant friends, that now-a-days, with so many periodicals appearing and disappearing, vigorous efforts are necessary on our behalf, that we may continue to sustain the position we have so long held. If this be not done we shall suffer loss. Will you kindly see to it that we do not, by seeking for new subscribers at your earliest convenience? We look to *you* to do this. We cannot. But we cheerfully leave this matter in your hands, believing that we have your good wishes, and that we shall have your best efforts. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

THE EDITOR.

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